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VOICES FROM ACROSS THE USA

Do you think media reports endanger national security?



DONALD LaMOTHE, 59
Retired
Warren, Mich.

They do at times. It all depends on what the story is. The media should delay broadcasting certain information until the information is proven authentic. But the USA government is not blameless, either. The government leaks information to the press when it's trying to get a point across. That's manipulating the public.



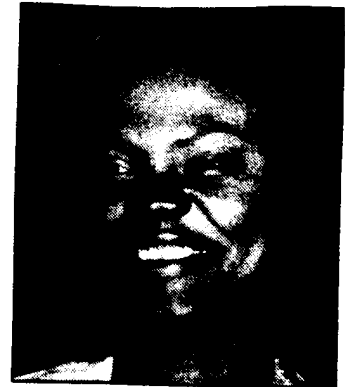
CAROLE BURAKOFF, 42
Photographer
Tarzana, Calif.

I don't think the media compromise national security. People really have a right to know what's going on in our country. There are certain things that we shouldn't know, for instance, if the information is so top secret that Russia shouldn't know about it. But I want to know what is happening in our country.



PHIL SETTECASE, 55
Architect
Salem, Ore.

Sometimes I wish the media would not say anything until an incident was completely checked out. I don't need to know everything. I'm interested, but if keeping information secret means the success of a security operation, then I don't need to know. For the good of the people, sometimes they shouldn't know everything.



FRANCIENA TURNER, 31
Volunteer coordinator
Washington, D.C.

Yes, the media endanger our national security to a certain extent. Countries have access to our media through their embassies stationed here. If a sensitive matter is being transmitted, the embassies pick it up. That's jeopardizing security. But if information is leaked, the government should be responsible.



BOB ERVIN, 51
Retired
Nashville, Tenn.

The media do not compromise our security, because the government will not let enough information out for security to be compromised. I don't feel threatened by media leaks because that information is probably no longer critical to the government anyway. That's why it's leaked. Top secret information wouldn't be out.



JANET SEGAL, 25
Marketing analyst
New York, N.Y.

In general, no, but there are occasional times when a reporter may lose perspective when uncovering a big story, and may reveal information that should be kept secret. If the government ever issues an order instructing the media not to publicize something to protect our national security, the media would probably comply.



JEAN CARTER, 63
Nurse
Staunton, Va.

I don't think media reports endanger security. It's only fair that the public be kept closely informed, if for nothing else than for peace of mind. One way or another, people are going to become aware of what's going on. The media wouldn't intentionally endanger our country by publicizing information. They just wouldn't.